MM#2 Walt Disney LIRE 4000 SETTEMBRE 1999

MICKEY MOUSE MM MYSTERY MAGAZINE

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ESTRELITA

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PAPERINIK FAN ZONE

MALINCONICO E MISTERIOSO

MISTERI E MICROCHIP 23 AD

MENZOGNE E MINACCE.

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MM
MYSTERY MAGAZINE

MM #2
SETTEMBRE 1999

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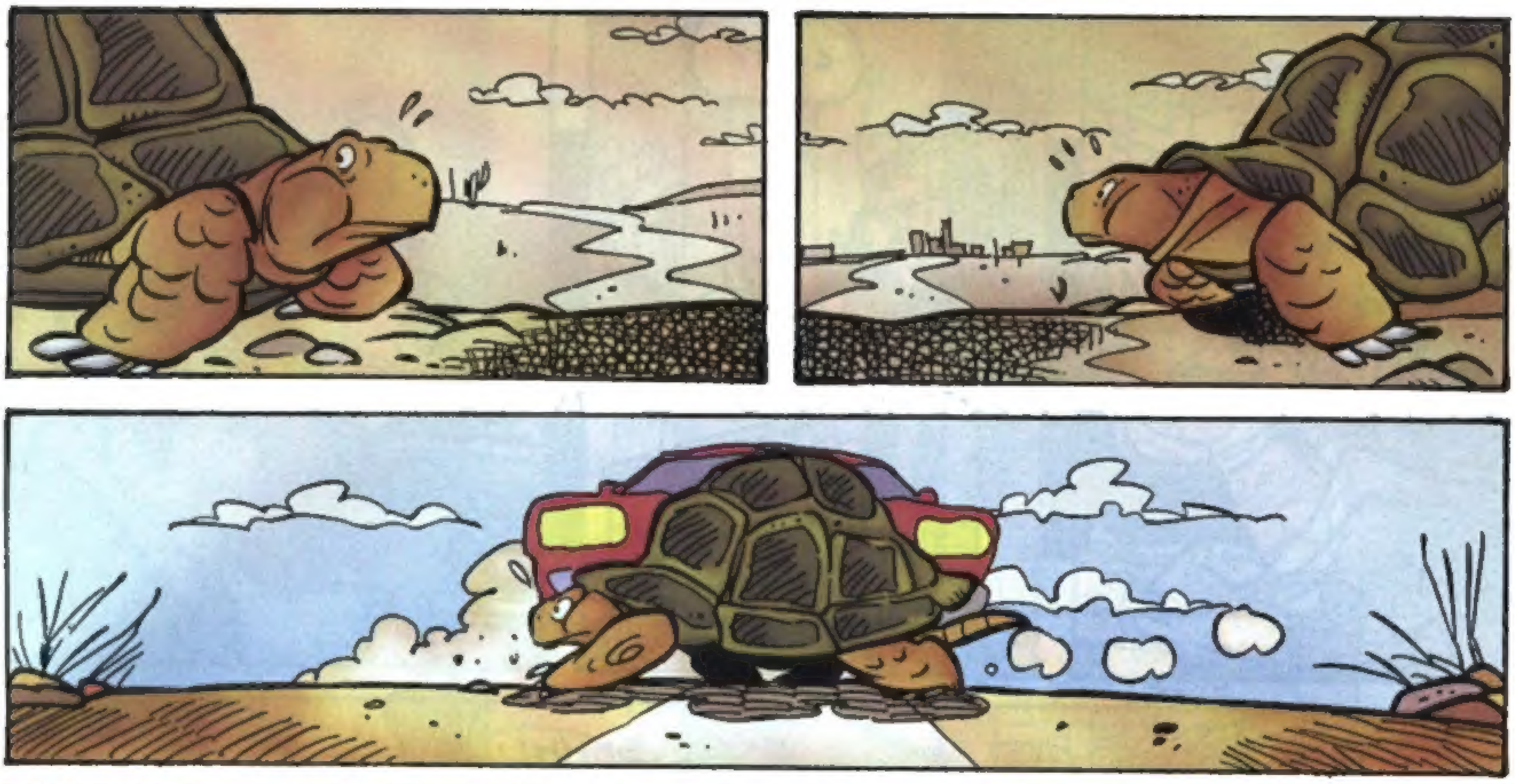
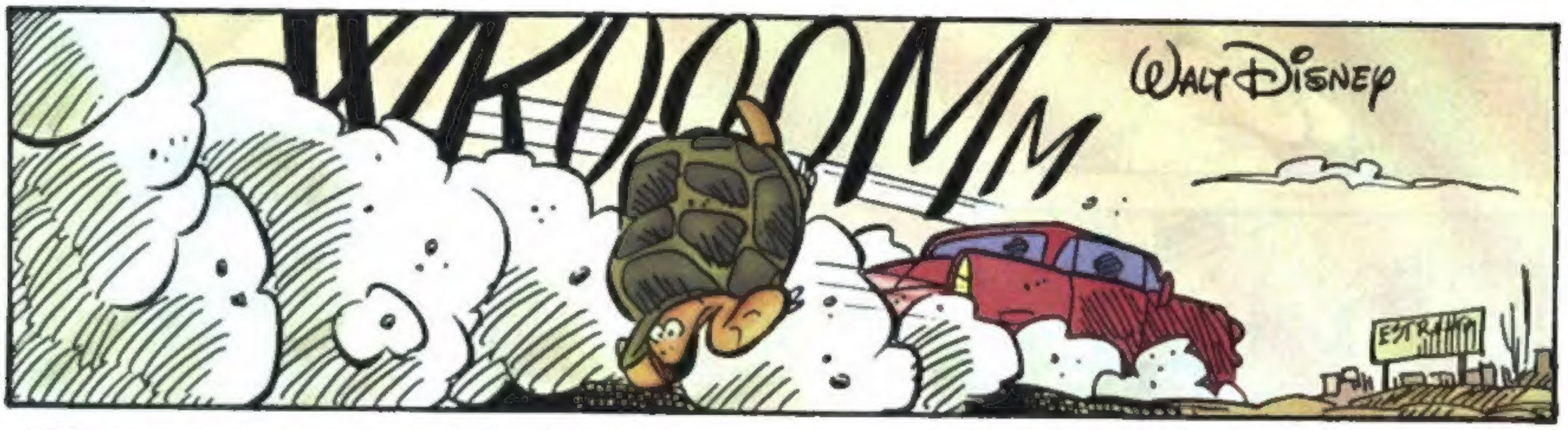
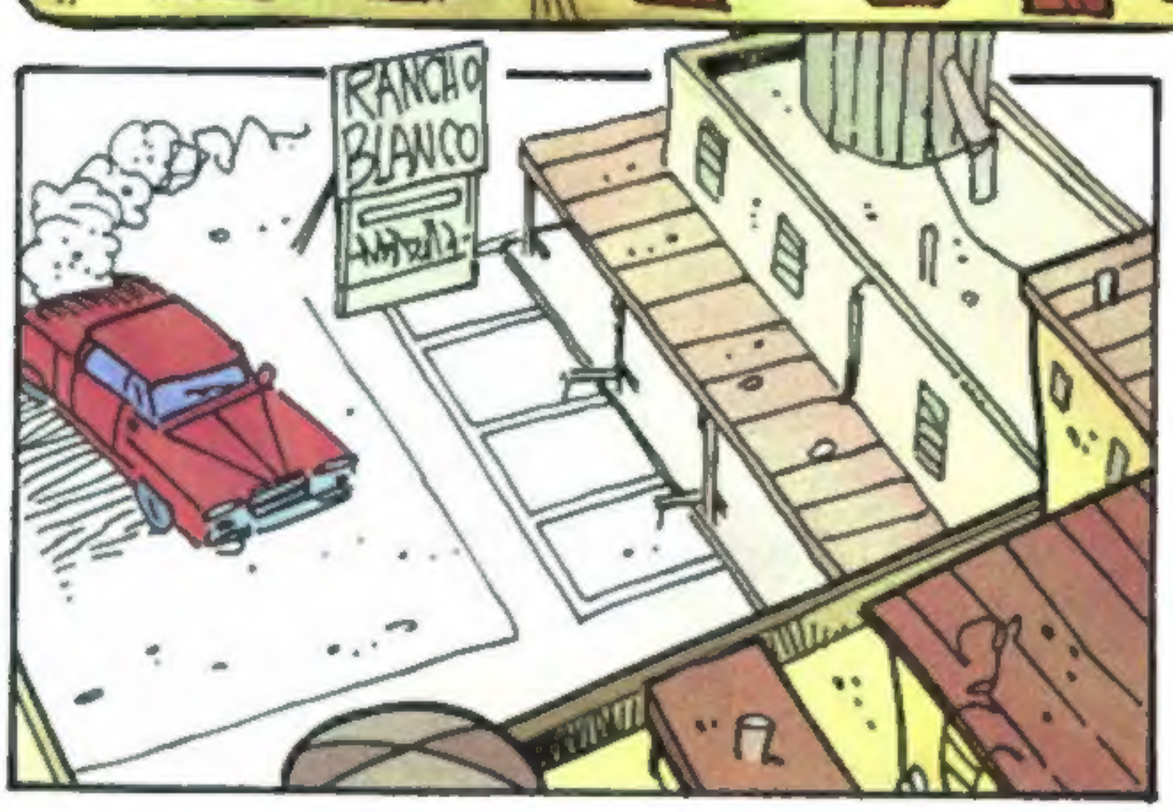
ANDERVILLE, IS LIKE A MYTHICAL CITY WITH A THOUSAND DOORS. IT IS A PLACE WITH MANY STREETS AND DIFFERENT PATHS. IT REQUIRES QUICK DECISIONS WHEN TRAVELING IT, WHICH ONCE MADE, CANNOT BE EASILY UNDONE OR ALTERED. IN OTHER WORDS, BEING ABLE TO LIVE (AND TO SURVIVE) HERE, MEANS THAT YOU HAVE TO BE QUICK ON YOUR FEET AND DECISIVE IN YOUR ACTIONS.

IN ORDER TO HELP A FRIEND IN NEED, YOU MAY HAVE TO CHOOSE A LONG AND HARD PATH. A PATH FROM WHICH YOU SHOULD ALWAYS BE ABLE TO RETURN ...ALMOST ALWAYS. A PATH WHICH MAKES YOU CHOOSE A SIDE AND TO TAKE A STAND. IF YOU DECIDE TO FIGHT FOR A LOST CAUSE WITH YOUR HEART INSTEAD OF YOUR BRAIN, AGAINST THOSE WHO RULE THE CITY, THEN THE RISK WILL BE GREAT. BUT THERE IS ONE WHO DOES IT ... AND IN SPITE OF IT ALL, HE SOMETIMES SUCCEEDS.





ESTRELITA



HUH?
SSSH!
!
EL PECHE

CRASH

?

!

EL PEGAO

THERE IS NO ONE HERE, *STETSON*

HE MUST HAVE LEFT IN A HURRY! ALL OF HIS STUFF IS STILL HERE ...

PROBABLY THOUGHT THE PLACE WAS ON FIRE.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

WHAT WE DO BEST, *SHARP* ...

"WE HUNT."

Anderville.

MISS FOSSETT! W-WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HERE?

IF MY EYES ARE CORRECT, *THEY ARE* TAKING THE OFFICE FURNITURE, SIR!

PUT *EVERYTHING* DOWN! YOU CAN'T DO THIS!

OH, YES, WE CAN! IF YOU HAD ONLY PAID YOUR FINES, IT WOULD NOT HAVE COME TO THIS, MR. *MITCHELL*!

I AM *NOT* MR. MITCHELL!

GOOD FOR YOU.

MY NAME IS MICKEY MOUSE AND SONNY IS MY *FRIEND*! I'M JUST USING HIS OFFICE TEMPORARILY AND ...

AND ARE YOU ALSO GOING TO TAKE CARE OF HIS *FINES*?

UH? WELL, ER... I ...

SONNY MITCHELL OWES *THREE THOUSAND* DOLLARS TO THE GOVERNMENT, MR. MOUSE!

T-THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS?

IT'S QUITE AN IMPRES-SIVE LIST. PARKING TICKETS, U-TURNS... DRIVING TOO FAST.

MMM... GOING 40 MPH.

40 MPH ISN'T AGAINST THE LAW!

ON THE *SIDE-WALKS* IT IS.

SONNY AND HIS CARS NEVER DID GO TOGETHER WELL...

...FROM HIS *FIRST* CAR TO *HIS LAST*, HE'D BEEN DRIVING A LONG TIME, BUT NOTHING HAD CHANGED ....

I WAS THE ONE WHO STAYED GROUNDED.

IT'S OPEN!

AM I INTER-RUPTING?

...AND COME ON IN, *MR. ESPOSITO!*

HEY! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FURNITURE?

THEY'RE NOT HERE. IT'S THEIR DAY OFF.

IS THAT MY MAIL YOU HAVE BEHIND YOUR BACK?

HE HE! YOU ARE THE DETECTIVE!

DON'T WORRY, NO INVOICES OR BILLS. I'VE ALREADY *CHECKED!*

YOU'RE TOO KIND.

IT HAS TRAVELED FAR. THE STAMP AND POSTMARK ARE BOTH IN *SPANISH*.

RIIIIP

NEWS?

ADVERTISING? IT'S A BROCHURE FROM THE TOURISM OFFICE IN *ESTRELITA*...

ESTRELITA?

IT'S A REMOTE VILLAGE *SOMEWHERE SOUTH* OF THE BORDER ... ARE YOU PLANNING TO GO THERE?

ESTRELITA

NOT IN THIS LIFETIME.

A PICTURE OF PEOPLE DANCING AROUND A PIÑATA. SMILES. CONFETTI.

"A GREAT TIME AT THE LAST FIESTA OF SPRING!"

AND THEN A FACE.

I-IT IS NOT POSSIBLE ..

IT'S SONNY! SEE FOR YOURSELF MISS FOSSETT!

CAN IT BE???

AND THIS BROCHURE IS VERY RECENT! IT SPEAKS OF ESTRELITA'S MOST *RECENT SPRING FESTIVAL!*

THIS COULD ONLY MEAN ONE THING ...

SONNY MITCHELL *IS STILL ALIVE!*

PERHAPS, I *KNOW* SOMETHING ABOUT THIS?

VERA ACKERMAN. THE MYSTERIOUS TYPE THAT COULD GET A PERSON LIKE SONNY TO FALL HOPELESSLY IN LOVE. AND SOMEONE LIKE ME TO BE VERY CAREFUL.

THIS ARRIVED IN THE MAIL THIS MORNING, VERA!

IT'S HIM.

THE TOURIST OFFICE IN ESTRELITA DIDN'T PICK UP. IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO DO THIS ON MY OWN.

AND IF IT WERE AN OLD PHOTO?

THAT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THIS BROCHURE WASN'T MAILED HERE BY *ACCIDENT!*

TO ESCAPE FROM HIS PROBLEMS, SONNY FAKED HIS DISAPPEARANCE .... ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?

I FOUND HIS CAR BURNED IN A RAVINE, BUT THERE WAS NO TRACE OF HIM...

UHMM ...

STILL IN HIDING, SONNY READ THE NEWSPAPERS AND LEARNED THAT I WAS IN ANDERVILLE AND THEN SENT ME A MESSAGE ....

THIS.

IF HE WANTED TO GET MY ATTENTION, HE SUCCEEDED, BECAUSE I WILL GO THERE...

...I WILL FIND HIM, GIVE HIM THE LESSON OF HIS LIFE AND THEN BRING *HIM HOME*!

YOU WILL NOT MAKE THIS TRIP *ALONE*.

I TOO HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO THAT SCOUNDREL!

THEN WELCOME ABOARD! *NEXT STOP, ESTRELITA!*

HOW WILL YOU GET BY THE POLICE? IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, YOU HAVE BEEN *FORBIDDEN* TO LEAVE THE CITY.

I HAVE A PLAN...

WELL, I CAME TO SEE IF YOU WERE FINALLY OUT OF TROUBLE, BUT APPARENTLY IT WAS A WASTED TRIP.

THERE IS ONE PERSON WHO CAN HELP ME.

FRIENDS AND POLICEMEN. THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE TO WHOM YOU DO NOT LIE.

AND IT COUNTS TWICE WHEN THE FRIEND AND THE POLICEMAN IS THE SAME PERSON.

BUT, SOMETIMES, IN ORDER TO SAVE ANOTHER FRIEND, THE RULES HAVE TO BE BROKEN.

PERMISSION FOR A SEVEN DAY TRIP TO MOUSETON, EH?

I TOLD YOU, JAN ... URGENT *FAMILY* BUSINESS!

SPARE ME THE DETAILS. I'LL GIVE YOU ***THREE DAYS***. NOT ONE MORE.

OH WELL... I... I'LL MAKE IT WORK! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU!

THERE IS A WAY! SHOULD BE AN EASY JOB FOR YOU MICKEY ...

DEALING WITH DIFFICULT SITUATIONS ISN'T SOMETHING YOU LEARN. YOU'RE BORN WITH THE ABILITY.

TAKE IT FROM SOMEONE WHO KNOWS.

DOCKS, THE PORT OF ANDERVILLE

AFTER THE EPISODE WITH SAM ROSCOE IT SEEMS THAT I HAVE MADE A NAME IN THE BUSINESS. TO CLAYTON, THIS IS A SIMPLE JOB...

BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME I SHOULD BE WARY OF HIS OPTIMISM.

THIS IS **NESTOR GRAVES**, AN ANIMAL DEALER. WHICH WOULD BE FINE IF HE WERE LEGITIMATE.

HE *IMPORTS* EXOTIC ANIMALS ILLEGALLY AND STICKS THEM IN CAGES FOR DAYS AT A TIME.

THE SUPPLIERS WILL BE IN TOWN TONIGHT WITH A NEW SHIPMENT. GRAVES COULDN'T MAKE THE APPOINTMENT ...

... AND YOU WANT ME TO GO?

YES, BUT NOT EMPTY-HANDED! HERE IS FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS. YOU KNOCK. THEY OPEN. HAND OVER THE MONEY. *I MAKE THE ARREST.*

TAKE THE FIRST TRAIN TO MOUSEVILLE IN THE MORNING

WILL IT BE DANGEROUS?

YOU HAVE AN HONEST FACE. PEOPLE TRUST YOU AND THESE SMUGGLERS WILL BE NO EXCEPTION.

AS SOON AS THEY HAVE THE MONEY, WE WILL TAKE ACTION...

FINK

TUMP TUMP

OUFF!

MAY I?

WHERE IS NESTOR?

HE HAD A LITTLE MISHAP SO HE SENT ME! HERE IS THE FIFTY THOUSAND...

YOU CAN COUNT THEM IF YOU WISH!

GET READY...

KIKORI FINDS YOU CUTE! HOW STRANGE ... WE USUALLY HAVE THE SAME TASTE ...

NESTOR HAS NEVER MISSED A DELIVERY! I WAS WARNED ...

EH! EH!

DO I MAKE YOU LAUGH? YOU THINK I'M FUNNY?

NOT YOU, YOUR MONKEY! I'M BEING TICKELED! HA HA!

AK! AK! AK!

AH AH AH!

AND WHAT IS IT?

IT'S A MICROPHONE!

TAKE IT OFF!

AMATEUR ...

IT'S A TRAP, SHIRO!

I BET THIS IS A NICE COLLECTION OF *NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS* TOO!

D- DOLLARS?

SURPRISE!

POLICE! DO NOT MOVE! YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST!

KRANKLE

CRASH

WATCH OUT!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

THE GAME IS OVER, MY FRIEND!

IT IS FOR *YOU!*

AK!

AAAH!

CRUNCH

ANIMAL!

KIKORI!

SOON WE WILL FREE THEM ALL.

ALL BUT THE MOST DANGEROUS ANIMALS!

YOU DON'T WANT TO LEAVE RIGHT NOW, SHIRO.

KUMP

AAAH!

WHERE ARE WE?

I'M ... I'M AFRAID TO FIND OUT.

OUFF!

JAAAN!

I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TIGERS!

ASIAN SKUNKS ... PEOPLE BUY THESE AS PETS?

I WOULD TRADE ONE FOR MY MOTHER-IN-LAW.

UHM... NICE JOB, MICKEY

SHOULD BE AN *EASY* JOB, EH JAN?

!!!

AND IT WASN'T?

NO! THE HARDEST PART WILL BE GETTING THIS SMELL OFF OF ME!

OH, I DON'T FIND IT THAT UNPLEASANT ...

!

AK AK AK

SEE? AT LEAST TWO OF US THINKS IT'S NICE!

HEY! DOWN! C'MON, KIKORI! *DOWN!*

I DIDN'T THINK VERA WOULD HAVE THE SAME OPINION ...

EVEN IF UNTRUE, YOU STILL HAVE TO PRETEND EVERYTHING'S OK.

YOU'RE LATE.

PLEASE DON'T ASK. IT'S A LONG STORY.

!

I LIKE LONG STORIES. JUMP IN AND TELL ME ...

TO BE HONEST, I WANT TO TAKE A NAP! I SPENT ALL NIGHT *IN THE SHOWER* ...

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? YOU CAN'T AFFORD A REAL WATERBED OR ....

WHAT IS THAT?

SNIFF SNIFF

CAESAR

SNIFF ... YOU DON'T SMELL THAT DISGUSTING SMELL?

UH ... I ...

UH ... *MUST* BE THE *MONKEY!*

AK?

A NEW DAY IN ANDERVILLE.

A DAY OF HOPES ...

... EXPECTATIONS ...

AND SECRETS.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE!

GOOD MORNING, MR. *JOHNSTON*!

CERTAINLY I RECOGNIZED YOU! *AH AH AH*, THANKS!

YES, *DEPUTY DA WIDMAR* IS IN THE OFFICE, BUT HE IS ON THE ANOTHER LINE RIGHT NOW!

R. WIDMAR

YES, BUT THAT GUY IS PRETTY DAMN SMART!

WHEN HE REALIZED HE WAS TRAPPED, HE WENT INTO HIDING.

HE COULD NOT HAVE GONE FAR AND ...

HOW SHOULD I KNOW? I'M DOING EVERYTHING I CAN!

I ONLY KNOW ONE THING ... WE MUST FIND HIM FIRST!

AFTER TRAVELING FOR A DAY, I FEEL THE GOAL IS CLOSER. JUST A LITTLE BIT.

CLAYTON WILL LOCK ME UP AND THROW OUT THE KEY. I JUST KNOW IT.

FOR A LITTLE LIE? DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT...

HE WILL THINK THAT WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, I RUN!

BLUB

I DON'T WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF MY DAYS IN ANDER-VILLE!

I THOUGHT YOU LIKED ....

KIKORI!

YOU ALREADY HAVE SO MANY *NEW FRIENDS!*

FOR EXAMPLE ... YOUR NEW GREEDY, LITTLE FURRY FRIEND.

FUNNY! HE THINKS HE OWNS THIS FOUR WHEELED *RUST BUCKET.*

THIS CAR WAS A GIFT FROM SONNY. AND BESIDES IT'LL HELP US CROSS THE BORDER.

I'M PUTTING YOU IN THE TRUNK WHILE I DRIVE...

EEEH?

THE POLICE SHOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR TRIP FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE!

THIS MEANS FAKE NAMES AT HOTELS ...

NO CALLS AND NO CREDIT CARDS! **OFF THE GRID!**

ONE FUGITIVE CHASING ANOTHER FUGITIVE ...

YOU'RE NOT A FUGITIVE ... YOU'RE ***AN OUTLAW***. YOU CAN GO BACK, IF YOU WANT.

HAVING NEW FRIENDS DOES NOT MEAN FORGETTING THE OLD ONES.

YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON, MICKEY. THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM.

ANDERVILLE, RICHARD ROMAN RESIDENCES.

AND SO?

GOOD NEWS, MR. RICHMOND!

ALL GOES AS PLANNED!

LIES! SONNY IS STILL AS FREE AS THE AIR.

...AND THERE ARE OTHER HOUNDS ON HIS TRAIL! HOW IS THIS GOOD NEWS?

IT ... IT'S A MATTER OF TIME, SIR!

I HAVE BEEN ASSURED...

WRONG! HERE THERE ARE NO ASSURANCES.

SONNY MUST BE QUIETED, AND QUICKLY! ONLY THEN WILL IT BE *FINISHED*!

MR. RICHMOND, I CANNOT...

...SWIM.

ESTRELITA

WHAT DID THEY SAY?

THEY HAVE NOT SEEN A LIVING SOUL FOR THE LAST SEVEN DAYS.

BROADEN THE RANGE OF RESEARCH?

OKAY.

YOU ARE BEGINNING TO MAKE ME ANGRY, SONNY MITCHELL.

ALMOST THERE!

BORDER 10 MILES

WE DRIVE FOR FIVE DAYS. VERA BECOMES INCREASINGLY QUIETER. FINALLY A STREET SIGN BRINGS CAUSES HER TO SPEAK.

WHAT IS IT?

YOU AND YOUR MONKEY NEED TO HIDE.

GET IN!

A TRUNK WITH *A FALSE BOTTOM!*

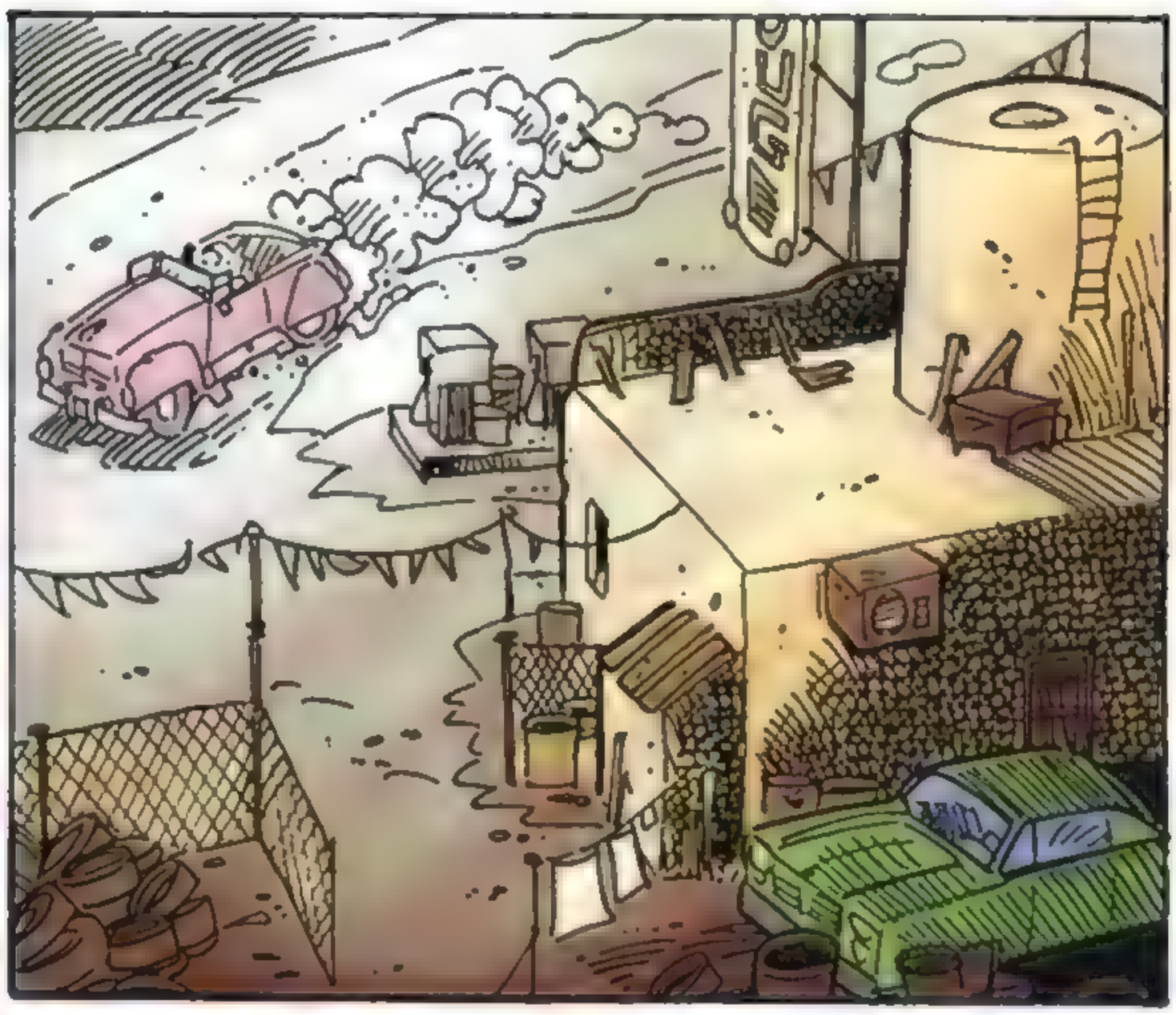
BE QUIET, IT'LL *WORK*.

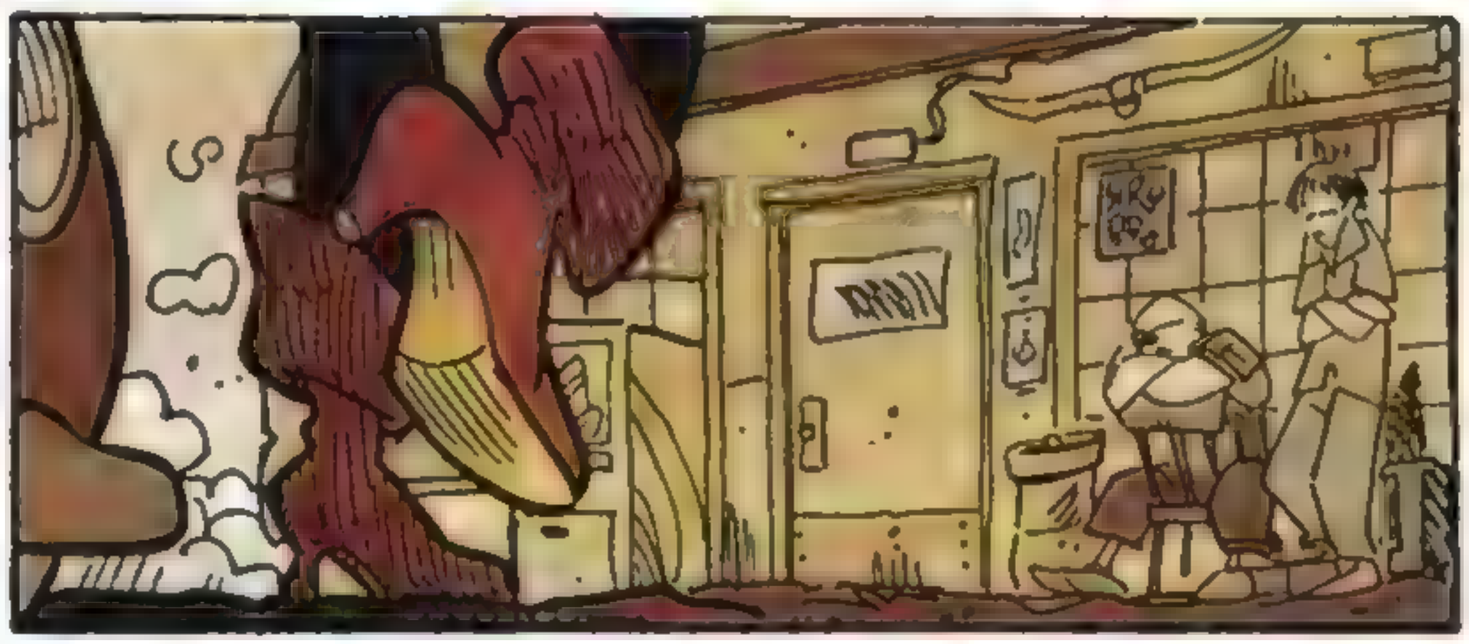
I HOPE SO!

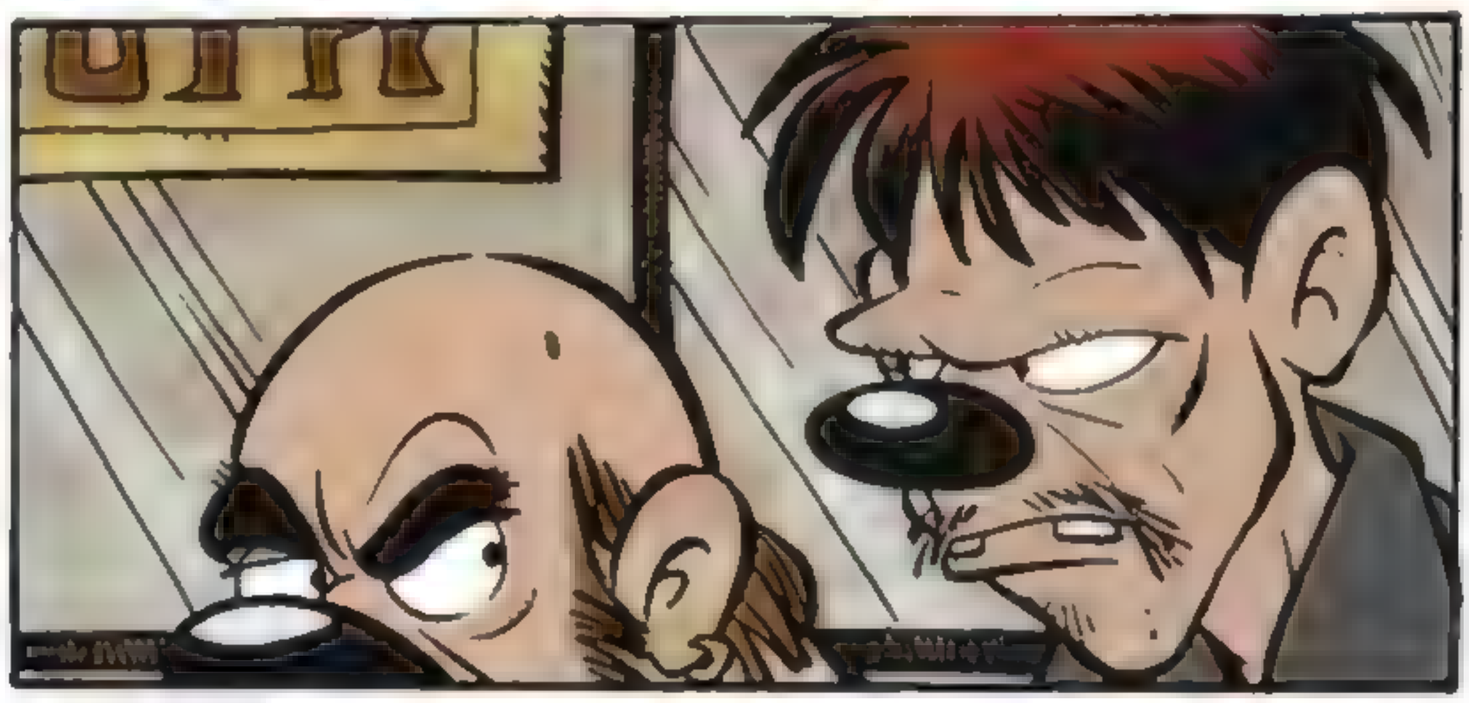
CLOMP

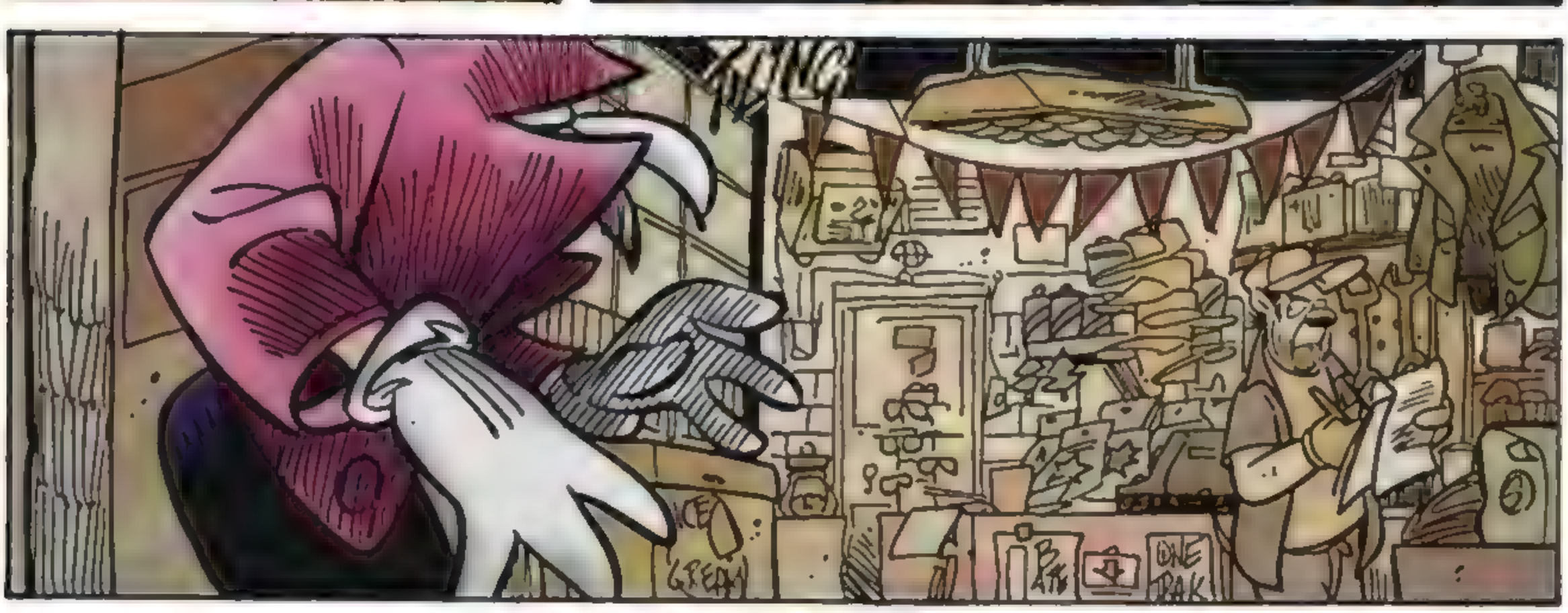
VROOOM

MOULINET
ROUGE









THAT'S IT?

ADD A FULL TANK OF UNLEADED GAS FOR THE HOTROD OUT FRONT ...

CLOSED

WHAT HOT ROD?

AH AH AH! THAT WAS THE EASIEST JOB OF MY LIFE, CUCHILLO!

GRINGOS! IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH THEM!

TEL

KROOOM

AY! AY! AY! AY!
BUMP BUMP BUMP
AHI! AHI! AHI!
AK! ¡¡¡K!
RANCHO
YOU SAY SOMETHING, ZAVALLO?
NOPE, IT WASN'T ME.
STRANGE ... I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING!
BIENVENIDOS
BONK BADUM BAM
LOOK!
UP AHEAD ... MAYBE THEY NEED HELP!
PROBLEM, *AMIGOS*?
FOR YOU, DEFINITELY YES.
!

THE CAR IS STOPPED FOR TEN MINUTES. I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO FIX MY BACK.

I GET THE TRUNK OPENED.

VERA ACKERMAN! THERE ARE LAWS ABOUT RECKLESS DRIVING, I GOING TO...

AK ...

V-VERA?

I FEAR THAT MY SITUATION IS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT...

BIENVENIDOS A ESTRELITA LA PEQUEÑA ESTRELLA

ESTRELITA! WHY DO PEOPLE TEND TO DISAPPEAR AROUND HERE?

THERE WAS SOMEONE IN THIS CAR ... PROBABLY THE SAME PERSON WHO KIDNAPPED VERA ...

BUT ITS HARD TO TELL *EXACTLY* WHAT HAPPENED!

IN ANY CASE, MY NEXT MOVE IS AN OBVIOUS CHOICE.

MGGGF! MMMGGH!

KOOOM

ESTRELITA... POLICE STATION

POLICIA

SEÑOR MOUSE? TAKE A SEAT.

I ASKED TO SPEAK WITH THE COMMANDER. YOU ARE ...

...I'M *CAPTAIN NAVARRE!* WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I'M LOOKING FOR TWO PEOPLE, CAPTAIN! AND I NEED HELP!

TELL ME EVERY-THING.

HERE IT IS... THIS IS SONNY MITCHELL, A PRIVATE DETECTIVE FROM ANDERVILLE, USA!

UHM...

EVERYONE THOUGHT HE HAD DISAPPEARED BUT IT SEEMS THAT HE HAS BEEN HERE FOR SOME TIME.

AND THE OTHER PERSON WHO WOULD IT BE?

VERA ACKERMAN, HIS GIRLFRIEND! SHE VANISHED INTO THIN AIR A FEW HOURS AGO.

AND WHERE WERE YOU?

WELL, I WAS... I WAS HIDING IN THE TRUNK AND I DID NOT SEE ANYTHING.

AH, I UNDER-STAND.

YOU UNDER-STAND?

PASSPORT AND VISA, PLEASE.

LISTEN, I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING ...

IS YOUR CAR IS PARKED OUTSIDE?

WELL, NOT EXACTLY...

CAN I SEE YOUR LICENSE, REGISTRATION, IMPORT PAPERWORK AND VALID INSURANCE.

AND HAVE YOU NOTICED YOU HAVE A ***MONKEY*** ON YOUR SHOULDER?

EH? OH SURE! HIS NAME IS KIKORI...

IT'S NOT YOUR LUCKY DAY, SEÑOR!

CAN I SEE HIS ***HEALTH CERTIFICATE?***

EHM...

LOCK HIM UP SERGEANT!

NO! LISTEN TO ME! THOSE PEOPLE ARE IN DANGER! WAIT! YOU ARE MAKING A MISTAKE!

TUMP

CRASH

CRAM

A MISTAKE WAS BEING MADE.

ROSARIO Y PEDRO

I WONDER IF I WAS THE ONE MAKING IT.

POLICIA

I HAVE NEWS

HECTOR! ANY IDEAS ABOUT SONNY?

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

WHAT IS IT?

YOU TELL ME! I'M NOT THE *SPECIAL AGENT SKIP KIPLING!*

TACOS EXTRA

MMM... NO TOURIST OFFICE HAS PUBLISHED ANYTHING LIKE THAT! ITS OBVIOUSLY A FAKE.

WHERE DID YOU GET THIS BROCHURE?

YOU SHOULD ASK MY GUEST ... A LITTLE GUY WHO ACTS LIKE HE KNOWS EVERYTHING!

BAKER, I WANT TO KNOW WHERE THIS PHOTO CAME FROM! *CONSULT THE ARCHIVES!*

THE PICTURE IS VERY RECENT, SIR.

THIS SHIRT WAS GIVEN TO SONNY FOR HIS BIRTHDAY *LAST MONTH!*

THE MOUSE HAS ALSO SPOKEN OF A CERTAIN VERA ACKERMAN.

SHE IS MITCHELL'S GIRLFRIEND.

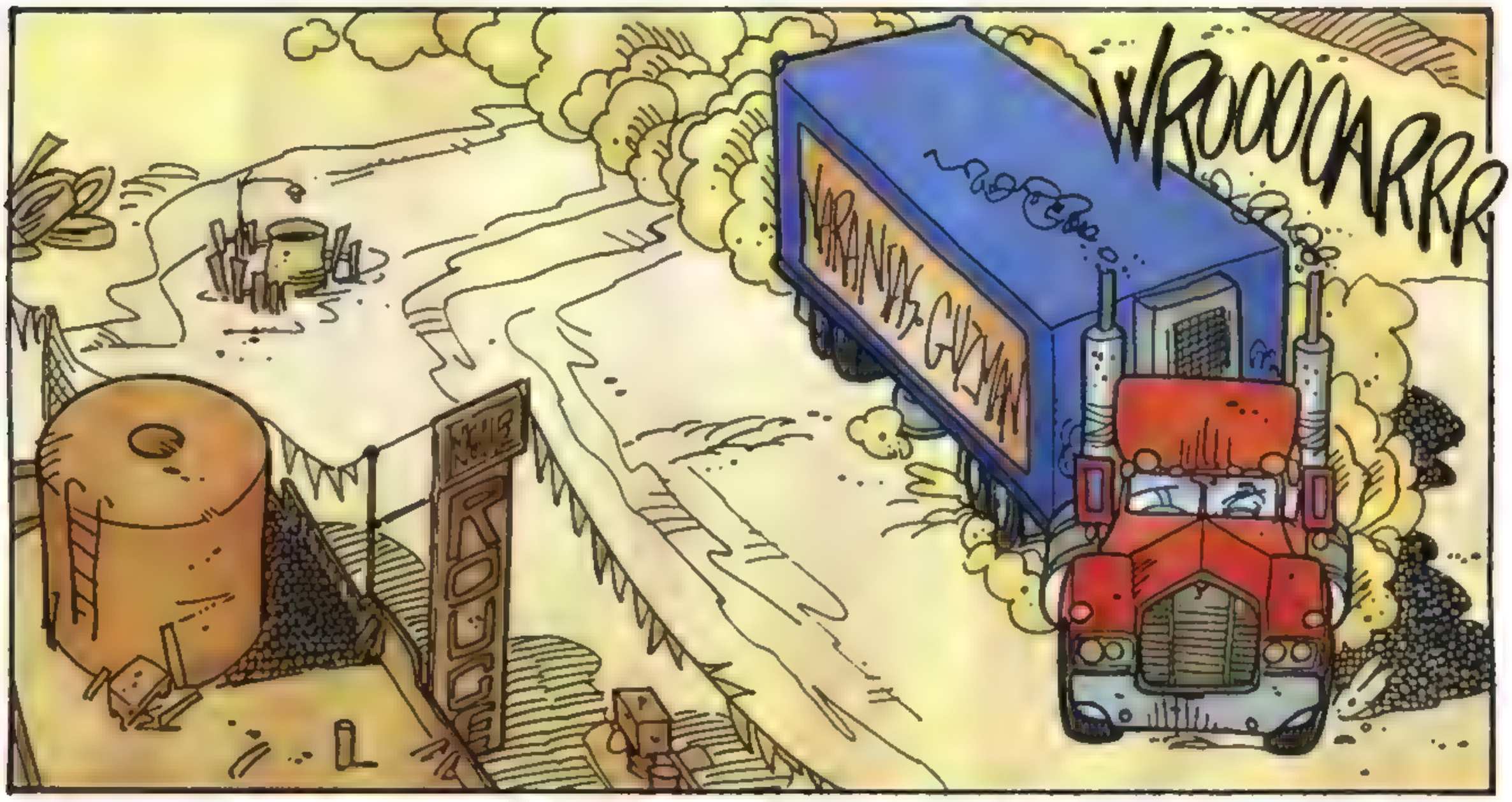
APPARENTLY SHE SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED TODAY ON THE WAY TO ESTRELITA!

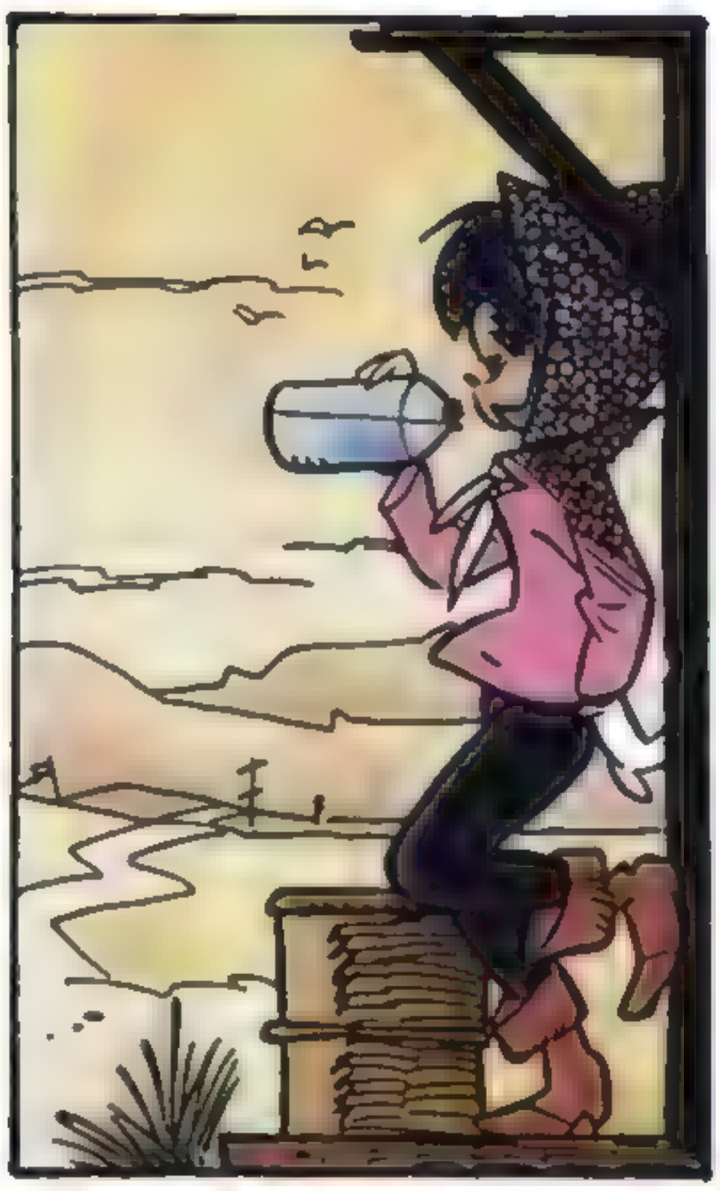
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

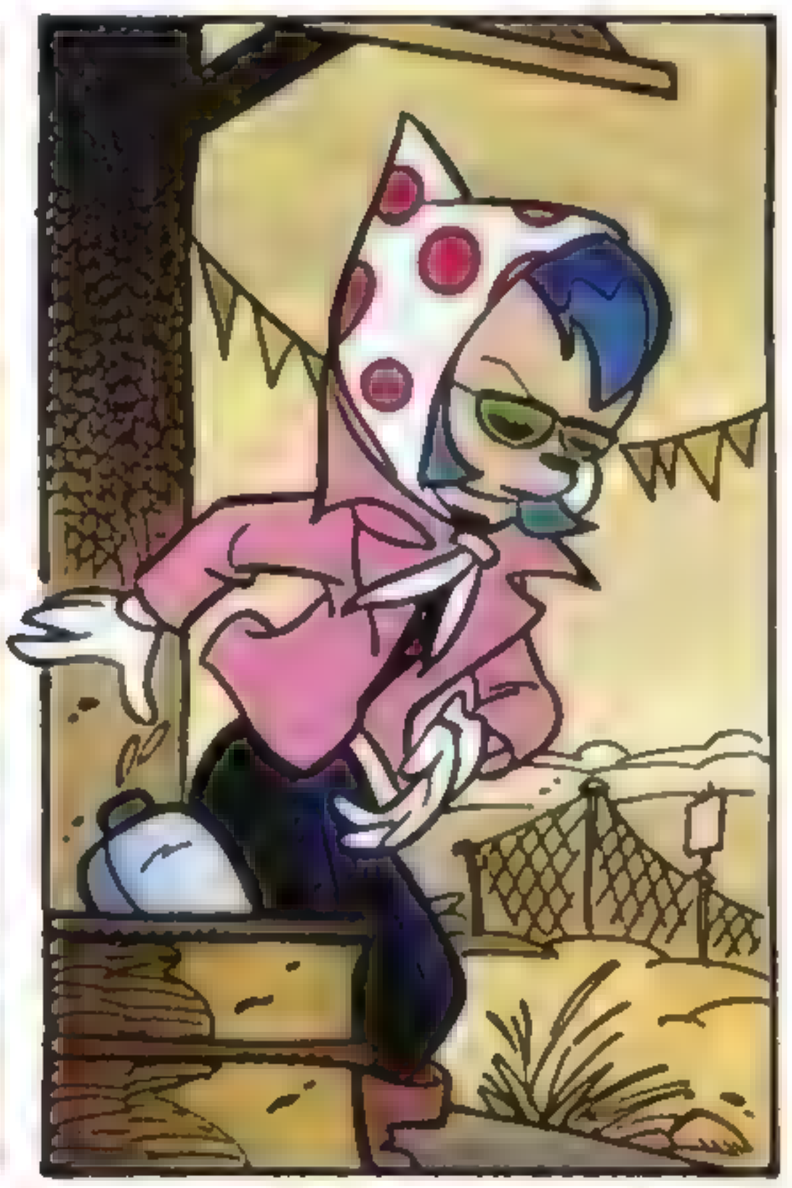
THIS LOCATION HAS BEEN BURNED, TRENTON! TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE DISAPPEARING.

TRUE! WE ARE ONLY MISSING *THE STAR WITNESS...*

WHERE IS SONNY MITCHELL?


VROOOOARRR
WARNING GUZMAN





COMO ESTAS, AMIGO? WE HAVE ARRIVED.

ESTRELLITA JAIL.

PLOF

PLOF

EXCUUU-SE ME...

HEY! COULD YOU BE MORE CAREFUL WITH THE PEANUTS?

SWINE.

HERE LITTLE GUY!

AK! AK! AK!

ISN'T HE CUTE?

WANT AN APPLE? DO YOU?

PLOF

OOPS.

SWINE.

LOOKING ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, AT LEAST WATERMELONS DON'T FIT THROUGH THE BARS.

SERGEANT!

UH? WE'RE FOLLOWING ORDERS, CAPTAIN!

LEAVE US ALONE! SEÑOR MOUSE HAS VISITORS!

CLANG

?

I AM AGENT KIPLING WITH *THE FBI.*

FBI?

I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT, MISTER.

GO ON...

IT SEEMS WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE SAME PERSON.

AND APPARENTLY, YOU HAVE BEEN *DISCOVERED!*

YOU ARE A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR, RIGHT?

YES... $98 *A DAY*, PLUS EXPENSES!

PESOS

WE'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU! YOU SEEM LIKE A SMART GUY.

IT WOULD APPEAR OTHERWISE. AS YOU HAVE SAID, I'VE BEEN DISCOVERED.

DID YOU KNOW THAT SONNY MITCHELL HAS BEEN IN THE WITNESS PROTECT-ION PROGRAM FOR 8 MONTHS?

NO, REALLY!

YOUR FRIEND IS THE STAR WITNESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AGAINST HENRY J. LASSWELL AND HIS TIES WITH ORGANIZED CRIME.

LASSWELL! I HAVEN'T HAD ANY DEALINGS WITH HIM FOR SOME TIME!

IT IS A SMALL WORLD. DO YOU KNOW *ROMAN RICHMOND*?

NO I DON'T!

HE RUNS A GOOD CHUNK OF ANDERVILLE'S BLACK MARKET...

...AND, THANKS TO SONNY, WE NOW KNOW HE FUNDED LASSWELL'S CAMPAIGN.

WOW!

WHILE ON A SEPARATE CASE, SONNY STUMBLED INTO A MUCH BIGGER STORY ...

HE COULDN'T PASS ON THE CHANCE TO INVESTIGATE, REVEALING DEEP *CORRUPTION*.

THE SCHEME WAS SIMPLE... RICHMOND TOOK THE DIRTY MONEY AND DEPOSITED IT INTO COMPAN-IES OWNED BY LASSWELL...

... WHO LAUNDERED THE MONEY AND RETURNED IT TO THE BOSS, MINUS *A FIVE PERCENT CUT*.

LASSWELL WAS ABLE TO PAY FOR THE EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE CAMPAIGN WITH THE DIRTY MONEY.

I IMAGINE THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT CONTINUED EVEN AFTER THE ELECTION!

EXACTLY. SONNY WITNESS-ED SEVERAL PRIVATE MEET-INGS BETWEEN THEM.

HE SAW LOTS OF INTEREST-ING STUFF. HOWEVER, HE PRESSED HIS LUCK TOO FAR AND WAS DISCOVERED.

OH!

AFTER BEING DISCOVERED, RICHARD'S MEN IMMEDIATELY GAVE CHASE.

AND WHEN ALL SEEMED LOST, HE FINALLY TURNED TO US.

I WAS RIGHT! THE CRASH WAS A RUSE TO CONFUSE HIS PURSUERS!

SNAP

WE TRANSFERRED SONNY TO ESTRELITA UNTIL THE TRIAL COULD BE STARTED.

AND THEN HE DISAPPEARED!

YES, THE NIGHT BEFORE HE WAS SUPPOSED TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

WHAT SPOOKED HIM ENOUGH TO RUN?

HE HAD JUST HAD A CONVERSATION WITH THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY WIDMARK..

THERE IS STILL SOMETHING NOT CLEAR TO ME ....

WHY SEND ME THE FLIER?

IT WAS A ***LURE*** TO BAIT YOU, MICKEY.

THE COMPUTER HAS FOUND THE ANSWER WE WERE LOOKING FOR! `THE IMAGE WAS TAKEN FROM A VIDEO OF THE MEETING WITH THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.

BUT ... THIS MEANS THAT ...

THAT SOMEONE HAS MADE SURE TO GIVE YOU THE ULTIMATE REASON TO HUNT FOR SONNY.

SOMEONE WHO IS LOOKING FOR HIM AND KNOWS THAT HE IS GONE!

AND IS CONVINCED THAT YOU, HIS OLD FRIEND, WILL FIND HIM FIRST!

DID YOU FEEL LIKE YOU WERE BEING FOLLOWED?

NO.

HMM... A COMPLICATED *SITUATION*.

THE PHOTO PROVES THAT THERE IS A MOLE IN EITHER RICHMOND'S OFFICE OR THE *DATA CENTER*!

PERHAPS THE SAME PEOPLE WHO CAPTURED VERA!

IT IS A POSSIBILITY! HOWEVER, FROM NOW ON, WE ACT ALONE! WE CAN'T TRUST *ANYONE*!

WHEN I FEEL THAT THEY ARE CLOSE, I WILL LET THEM *FOLLOW* ME.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?

IT'S SIMPLE! WHILE YOU CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR SONNY AND VERA, I'LL DOUBLE BACK BEHIND MY MYSTERIOUS PURSUERS!

AND DRAW THEM OUT, IN A PLACE WHERE SONNY WOULD NEVER GO ...

A CLASS ON GOOD MANNERS?

BURP!

I'LL RETURN TO ANDERVILLE!

I HAVE KEPT MY EYES OPEN DURING THE WHOLE TRIP, BUT I HAVEN'T EVEN A HINT OF MY FOLLOWERS

THEY MAY NOT EXIST. OR, EVEN MORE PROBABLE, THEY ARE VERY GOOD.

IT'S HARD TO FIND SOMETHING WHEN YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR.

TOO MANY *TACOS*, EH?

ARF... PANT...

DO NOT MOVE!

VERA?

YOU?

EVERYTHING WAS MUCH SIMPLER IN MOUSETON.

I ... I DID NOT THINK TO SEE YOU AGAIN SO SOON!

THAT'S IT? THERE MUST BE ANOTHER EXPLANA-TION!

I'LL GIVE THEM TO YOU, MICKEY!

MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED, BUT THAT VOICE ....

?!

SONNY!

MICKEY! GIVE ME A HUG, MY OLD FRIEND!

YOU ... YOU ... BAFOON!

HEY! THIS IS THE WAY YOU GREET FRIENDS?

YOU'RE RIGHT! THERE IS A BETTER WAY!

SOCK

I PREFER THE OTHER WAY!

SONNY MITCHELL! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA THE TROU-BLE YOU'VE CAUSED ME?

I DIDN'T WANT TO COMPLICATE YOUR LIFE!

I BET! IN FACT IT'S NOT BAD, ... I'VE ONLY HAD TO START IT *OVER!*

I'M SORRY, MICKEY

YOU HAD BETTER BE, BELIEVE ME!

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU, SONNY!

AGENT KIPLING TOLD ME ALL ABOUT ESTRELITA, WHY DID YOU LEAVE?

I WAS NO LONGER SAFE.

I KNEW THE DAY OF MY INTERVIEW WITH THE LAWYER, SUTTON, THE MAN'S ATTORNEY ...

HE WAS ONE OF THEM, MICKEY.

"UNTIL THAT MOMENT I DIDN'T KNOW HIS NAME, ONLY THAT HE WAS THE COURIER BETWEEN LASSWELL AND RICHMOND!".

I WAS NO LONGER SURE OF ANYTHING! I DIDN'T TRUST THE FEDS EITHER ....

AND SO YOU DECIDED TO RUN AWAY!

NOT BEFORE I HAD WARNED VERA! I WOULD MEET HER JUST PAST THE BORDER, SHE STARTED TO COME AND GET ME ...

AND... YOU WERE AN UNPLANNED *INTER-RUPTION!*

UNABLE TO GO WITHOUT YOU, I HAD TO THINK FAST! I MADE A DEAL WITH A COUPLE OF FRIENDS TO STEAL THE CAR!

THEY WOULD TAKE YOU UP TO ESTRELITA! WHERE *YOU* WOULD FREE YOURSELF.

SO YOU KNEW EVERYTHING FROM THE START!

WHEN I LIED, I DID IT FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!

TSK! DID YOU KNOW OF THE BROCHURE?

A TRICK FROM SUTTON AND RICHMOND TO GET YOU IN ON IT!

THE MEN'S BOSSES HAVE KEPT AN EYE ON ME, BUT OBVIOUSLY I HAVE DISAPPOINTED THEM...

AND THEN WE TOOK REFUGE HERE! THIS IS THE LAST PLACE YOU WOULD LOOK SONNY MITCHELL!

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT TOO! EH EH EH!

AH! AH! AH! WE WERE ALWAYS A GREAT COUPLE, EH?

UH, OH ... WAIT A MINUTE ...

YOU SHOULD NOT BE HERE! IF RICHMOND'S MEN KNEW I CAME BACK ...

WERE YOU FOLLOWED?

BANG

CRACK

AK!

APPARENTLY SO.

ONE SHOT, EH?

AND? YOU ARE NEVER WRONG?

NOT WHEN I'M WORKING!

POW POW POW POW POW POW

GET DOWN, QUICK!

IT SURE WOULD BE NICE IF THERE WAS SOMETHING TO HIDE BEHIND!

CRAK

CRASH

I MIGHT WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO *MY FURNITURE*?

DO YOURSELF A FAVOR, *SHUT UP*, SONNY!

ZIP ZIP

SKRINKLE

CRASH

I HAVE TO GET TO THE PHONE ...

GOOD IDEA! *CALL THE POLICE! THE FEDS! THE ARMY!*

CALL WHOEVER YOU WANT, AS LONG AS THEY ARRIVE IN A HURRY! WE WON'T LAST LONG!

!

RIIIING RIIIING

LITTLE CAESAR.

UH ...

OKAY.

KNOCK

WHO WAS IT?

MICKEY. HE SAYS HE'S HERE WITH SONNY.

SONNY IS BACK?

SURE. AND IT SEEMS THAT THERE IS SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO HARM HIM.

WE CAN'T ALLOW IT.

RIGHT! AT LEAST NOT UNTIL HE HAS *RETURNED ALL THE MONEY!*

THEY MUST BE HIDING.

LET'S GET THEM! YOU KEEP YOUR GUN POINTED AT THE DOOR!

YOU KNOW, SMOOTH ... I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL SORRY FOR THE LITTLE GUY! WE'VE FOLLOWED HIM ALL OVER THE WORLD, WE RESCUED HIM FROM THAT CAR ... I KINDA LIKE HIM!

UGH! IN OUR PROFESSION YOU CAN'T GET ATTAC-HED!

GOOD TO KNOW ....

I HATE SEEING GROWN MEN CRY.

!?

WE ARE SAVED!

LOOK! LITTLE CAESAR AND THE BOYS FROM THE BAR!

STUMP

AW!

PACK

OW!

OUCH!

SOCKSHORT

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF! IF THEY GET PAST THEM, WE WILL REGRET IT!

QUIET! WE WILL NOT BE STICKING AROUND!

WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT.

I'M SORRY, GENTLEMEN. BUT ATTORNEY SUTTON AND PROSECUTOR WIDMARK ARE IN A MEETING! DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT?

DO WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT?

UM LET ME THINK ...

PROSECUTORS OFFICE, ANDERVILLE

SLAM

EH? WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS *INTRUSION*?

I TRIED TO STOP THEM, SIR, BUT ....

WE DON'T HAVE AN APPOINTMENT, BUT I AM SURE THAT THE DEPUTY WILL BE PLEASED!

MITCHELL?

IN PERSON! I'M HERE TO GIVE MY TESTIMONY TO YOU DIRECTLY, WIDMARK!

I WANT TO SAY EVERY-THING I KNOW ABOUT THE LASSWELL AND RICHMOND DEAL ...

AS WELL AS ATTORNEY SUTTON.

!!

WELL, YOU'RE NOT SURPRISED?

WHY SHOULD HE BE? AM I RIGHT, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY?

BIG SHOTS LAWYERS SUCH AS LASSWELL AND RICHMOND DO NOT DEAL WITH *MINOR ATTORNEYS*.

SUTTON IS A PAWN WHO ONLY CARRIED OUT ORDERS ...

YOURS! IS THAT CORRECT, SIR WIDMARK?

YOU SEEM VERY SURE OF YOURSELF ...

OH, THEY ARE JUST GUESSES.

LET ME SEE! THE HEAD PROSECUTOR INVESTIGATING LASSWELL ...

...HE RELIES ON YOUR OFFICE TO CONDUCT THE INQUIRY INTO THE CAMPAIGN FUNDING...

WHAT THE PROSECUTOR DOESN'T KNOW IS THAT YOU AND THE SUSPECT ARE GOOD FRIENDS AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATES!

AND THIS IS WHERE SONNY ENTERS THE SCENE! HIS TESTIMONY WILL NAIL LASSWELL AND RICHMOND!

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH ***TO SILENCE*** HIM IN ORDER TO DERAIL THE INVESTIGATION, BUT THERE WAS A PROBLEM ...

SONNY IS OUT OF REACH BECAUSE THE FEDS PUT HIM INTO WITNESS PROTECTION.

BEFORE THE TRIAL YOU WERE ALLOWED TO SEND ONE OF YOUR MEN TO A MEETING WITH SONNY ...

AND HERE WAS YOUR ***FIRST*** MISTAKE, YOU SENT SUTTON!

SONNY RECOGNIZES HIM! AND HE KNOWS WHO HE IS, BUT FEELING IN DANGER HE DIDN'T REVEAL IT, EVEN TO THE FEDS.

RICHMOND THEN SENDS HIS ***GUN-MEN***, BUT SONNY HAD ALREADY LEFT ESTRELITA.

CAN YOU BLAME HIM? WHEN HE DISCOVERED THAT THOSE WHO HAD TO PROTECT HIM WERE THE BAD GUYS, HE LEFT.

AND AT THAT POINT, YOU BROUGHT ME INTO IT, BUT IT WENT ALL WRONG!

INTERESTING ... YOU HAVE NO *PROOF!*

A *WITNESS*, A *BROCHURE* AND *THREE KILLERS* ARE NOT ENOUGH?

THREE THINGS.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

BECOME A *HERO*. LEAVE THAT CHAIR. AND *LEAVE THIS CITY*

MR. WIDMARK!

WIDMARK!

DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL!

QUIET, EVERYONE! ONE AT A TIME!

ANDERVILLE PROSECUTOR OFFICES, SEVEN DAYS LATER.

TOD MCCOY, FROM THE *ANDERVILLE NEWS PIONEER!*

MR. WIDMARK, CAN YOU CAN TELL US THE INVESTIGATION THAT LED TO THE INDICTMENT OF HENRY J. LASSWELL?

I'LL SAY WHAT I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU! IN ORDER TO INVESTIGATE THE DEALINGS BETWEEN THE EX-CANDIDATE AND RICHMOND, I PRETENDED TO GO ALONG WITH THEIR SCHEME ...

DISCOVERING AN INCREDIBLE WEB OF CORRUPTION AND CONSPIRACIES!

WILL HATFIELD, FROM *THE ANDERVILLE STAR TRIBUNE!*

WHY WOULD YOU LEAVE YOUR JOB WITH THE PROSECUTOR?

I FEEL MY EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE CAN BE USED ELSEWHERE! I ASKED FOR THIS TRANSFER.

"ANY QUEST-IONS?"

AN OLD LESSON THAT STILL APPLIES IS THAT PEOPLE ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM.

APPEARANCES CAN DECEIVE, AND THIS STORY HAS REMINDED ME OF THAT SEVERAL TIMES.

KIKORI TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE. I OWED HER MY LIFE AND I BELIEVED THAT SHE WAS A KIND OF GOOD LUCK CHARM.

IN REALITY, SHE'S ONLY A MONKEY.

¡SALUDOS! XXX

I HOPE THE WEATHER IS NICE.

SONNY IS BACK IN ESTRELITA WAITING FOR THE TRIAL TO BEING, AND IS APPARENTLY IN GOOD COMPANY...

AGENT KIPLING HAS PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR ME WITH INSPECTOR CLAYTON.

JAN WAS *REALLY ANGRY*, BUT THEN KIPLING EXPLAINED EVERYTHING.

NOW HE'S JUST A LITTLE ANGRY.

BUT NO *MATTER*.

THE IDEA OF HAVING TO STAY HERE, FOR WHO KNOWS HOW LONG, DOESN'T EVEN BOTHER ME.

THERE IS NOTHING THAT BOTHERS ME *ANYMORE*.

BECAUSE NOW I'M NOT ALONE.

¡Saludos!

FINE

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